

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the office Action mailed January 24, 2005. In the Office Action, claims 1-20 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over copending Application Nos. 09/213,096, 09/271,008 & 09/131,141. This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

It is noted that the Office Action incorrectly asserts that claims 1-20 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over copending Application Nos. 09/271,011, which is the Application Number of the subject application. It is presumed that copending Application No. 09/213,096 was intended in lieu of 09/271,011.

Claims 1-20 remain in this application and have not been amended.

Applicants respectfully submit herewith an executed terminal disclaimer to obviate the obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Applicants respectfully request that the obviousness-type double patenting rejection be withdrawn and a Notice of Allowance be issued at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants submit herewith an information disclosure statement (IDS) because it is noted that some prior art references, cited in co-pending continuation applications, have not been referenced in the PTO-1440 forms or Office Actions provided by the Examiner. Although it is clear that the Examiner has considered all prior art references in the related cases, for the record, Applicants respectfully request that consideration of these prior art references be noted by initialing the SB-08A forms provided with the IDS. The Examiner is thanked in advance for his attention to this matter.

Appl. No. 09/271,011
Am dt Dated March 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 24, 2005

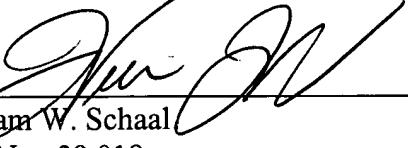
Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 28, 2005

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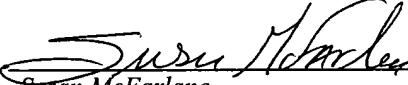
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Susan McFarlane

March 28, 2005

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